

What is claimed is:

1. A head cleaning member for use with an ink jet printer that performs printing on a recording medium by ejecting ink from a recording head, said cleaning member being used in abutment against an ink ejection surface of the recording head, in which

5 said head cleaning member has a major surface having an area equal to or larger than the ink ejection surface of said recording head and

a multiplicity of parallel and fine ink discharging grooves are provided on said major surface such that waste ink can flow in a definite direction.

10 2. A head cleaning member according to claim 1, wherein said ink discharging grooves are integrally formed on the major surface of a base body of said head cleaning member.

15 3. A head cleaning member according to claim 1, wherein said ink discharging grooves are formed on a surface of a waste ink guiding film adhered to a base body of said head cleaning member.

20 4. A head cleaning member according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein said ink discharging grooves have a cross sectional shape selected from the group consisting of U-shape, V-shape, rectangular shape and a combination thereof.

25 5. A head cleaning member according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein a waste ink sump is further provided so as to collect waste ink that has flown through said ink discharging grooves.

6. A head cleaning member according to any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein said waste ink sump is further provided with an ink absorbent.

30 7. A head cleaning member according to any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein a side wall which extends in the longitudinal direction and rises up higher than the ridge-like projections defining said ink discharging groove is provided on both ends of said head cleaning member.